



**Report of the Director of Neighborhoods & Housing Department**

**Inner North West Area Committee**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006**

**Subject: Area Manager's Report**

**Electoral Wards Affected:**  
  
**ALL**

**Specific Implications For:**  
Ethnic minorities   
Women   
Disabled people   
Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report seeks to provide Members with information on a number of issues relating to the area, including Neighbourhood Management, the District Partnership Conference and the future use of both Headingley Primary and Royal Park schools.

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report seeks to provide Members with information on a number of issues relating to the area which are not addressed elsewhere within the meeting agenda.

**2.0 Neighbourhood Management**

2.1 All elements of the Little London and Woodhouse Neighbourhood Management project portfolio are now in place and being delivered. Key points of interest since the last Area Committee are;

- The police intend to carry out a door-to-door survey to gather residents' perceptions of crime, and intelligence on criminal activities.
- Capital schemes totaling £30,000 will have been agreed by the date of the Area Committee.
- Both Action Groups (Crime & Grime and Health, Education and Training) have met twice.

- A potential joint venture with the Council's Business and Enterprise section, to encourage enterprise and increase employment in the area.
- Regeneration Board for the area set up and due to meet in October.

2.2 At the June Area Committee meeting Members agreed to allocate resources to produce Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for three areas, the Harolds and Thornvilles (Headingley), Hawksworth Wood (Kirkstall) and the Silk Mills (Weetwood). Development of these plans will commence in the near future.

### **3.0 Little London Regeneration Proposals**

3.1 A Government decision on the Council's regeneration proposals for Little London is expected in the autumn. Further updates will be provided to the area committee when available.

### **4.0 Woodhouse Moor**

4.1 Following on from a meeting held with Parks & Countryside to discuss plans to improve Woodhouse Moor, a report has been received outlining possible means of community consultation. A further Members meeting has been arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the report and progressing community consultation. Following from this a public meeting has been arranged by Parks & Countryside on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to discuss plans for the Moor.

4.2 A full report will be brought to the Area Committee at an appropriate future date, providing details of planned consultation.

### **5.0 Headingley Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme**

5.1 Consultation meetings have been held with both Headingley Town Centre Strategy Group and Ward Members on the proposals for Headingley town centre for submission to the Town and District Centre Regeneration Scheme. Following feasibility work carried out by Architectural Design Services a full business case was prepared by the area management team and submitted on 30th August. It is to be considered alongside all other business cases at Asset Management Group on the 22nd September.

5.2 The scheme initially included proposals for improvements to North Lane, the Arndale Centre and St Annes' Road/Otley Road junction. However, following consultation, the scheme was revised and the North Lane elements removed at this stage, with a view to creating a wider scheme for the North Lane area.

### **6.0 Royal Park School**

6.1 Report on the possible future of the school was submitted to Executive Board in August. The report detailed the rising cost of refurbishment of the existing structure, which is now £634,000 more than originally estimated in 2003. A number of options were outlined including redevelopment of the site through retention of the existing building and redevelopment through a new build, both with either full Council occupancy or mixed use (including some community use).

6.2 Executive Board supported its original decision to retain the existing structure. However, as it is no longer viable to support a wholly Council funded refurbishment it was agreed to market the property for refurbishment with the requirement to include community facilities.

## **7.0 Leeds Girls' High School**

7.1 As part of the proposals to relocate Leeds Girls' High School to Alwoodley, consultants working on behalf of the school have been looking into options for the re-use and part re-development of the existing site on Headingley Lane. Initial discussions have taken place with Planning, including the potential for retaining the existing school gym and swimming pool for public use. A Planning Framework is being worked up for Council approval to guide development proposals for the existing school site. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

## **8.0 Headingley Primary School**

8.1 Following the closure of Headingley Primary School, officers have sought a period of exclusivity for Headingley Development Trust to substantiate its business case, including funding for the acquisition, refurbishment and operation of the building as a community arts/business centre. Whilst this has not been agreed, officers are still able to work with Headingley Development Trust on this.

## **9.0 District Partnership Conference**

9.1 The annual District Partnership Conference was held on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Over 70 delegates attended and the agenda covered affordable housing, transport and updates from key services areas within the Partnership. Two workshop sessions were held which focused on better partnership working and delivering priorities through the Action Plan. Key issues highlighted include:-

i) Communications within the Partnership. A Communications Plan for the District Partnership will be produced towards the end of the year following a review by consultants recently engaged by the Leeds Initiative.

ii) Proposals for inclusion in the Action Plan included:-

- actions to increase the availability of affordable housing by seeking release of council land at less than market value
- improving the reference in the plan to the work of the Shared Housing Group and the Student Housing Strategy
- the establishment of a 'Leeds' Left Bank' strategy for Inner North West, to attract a more diverse population to the area
- increasing the involvement of other key partners, such as Yorkshire Forward

The District Partnership Board will consider suggestions made during the session with a view to incorporating relevant, achievable partnership actions with identified lead agencies.

9.2 Following the request at the Conference for the Leeds' Left Bank proposal to be considered by the District Partnership, Area Management has agreed to set up a meeting with Leeds HMO Lobby and relevant officers from Planning, to discuss these proposals in more detail and establish what actions there are for the Council and the District Partnership.

9.3 See Appendix 1 for a full summary of issues discussed during the Conference workshop sessions.

## **10.0 Future Area Committee Agenda Items**

10.1 Updates on the following items will be included on future area committee agendas:

- Well-being monitoring report
- Marketing Leeds – promotion of Inner North West
- Student Housing Strategy
- Community Centres
- Vision for Inner North West - addressing issues of concern in the area.
- Neighbourhood Improvement Plans
- Kirkstall Lift

## **11.0 Recommendations**

11.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.